

arrange one for November 25th, arrange one later. But get busy you live ones and start the ball rolling. But Don't defer your own particular donation to your Paper Fund.

The Craft Strike Has Failed

By W. H. Adams.

Whatever may have been accomplished in the past by way of bettering laboring conditions thru the craft strike, the time has come when this means of warfare has proved a failure. That is, in its fullest sense it has failed. All the craft strike can hope to do is to shift a burden from one set of laboring people to another. The capitalists against whom the strike is aimed, remain untouched. If we are willing to admit that a gain has been made for labor by improving the conditions of one set of workmen at the expense of another then my line of argument is wrong. However, I am not willing to admit this. A true gain for labor must wrench something from capital and do it in a way that capital cannot pass the effect along and ultimately throw it again upon the working people. Let us take a case in point and see just how it works.

I live at a small station upon the Virginian Railway. There are twelve men working on this section. Let us suppose the section men demand a 25% increase in pay. The company refuses to grant it. The men go out on strike. Now let us suppose the men win the strike. The company calls them back and grants the full demand. This is the most favorable outcome possible for labor. What happens? The men report for work. The company will do one of two things, either directly or indirectly. Either the force of section men will be cut so the payroll will remain the same or be smaller or rates will be increased to cover the added expense. You may rest assured the company is not going to endanger either dividends or the salaries of high officials to give an increase to shovelers of dirt.

Let us suppose the company cuts the force, 9 men go to work at the wages 12 were getting before and under the stimulus of this increased pay are spurred up to do the work of the 12. The company is not touched by the outcome of the strike. Nine men gain, three lose. Workingmen gain and working men lose. Now let us suppose all 12 men are returned to work and rates are increased to cover the added expense. Added freight rates means higher prices at the

local stores. Most section men spend about all they earn at these stores. In the case we are discussing these 12 section men with their increased pay can meet the advanced store prices. But how about the other people who also trade at these stores and fail to benefit by the raise in wages of the section men? They lose. Then again the burden is only shifted from one set of working people to another. The craft strike has failed utterly. It has failed for this reason. The only strike that can possibly win will be one that can place the effect upon the capitalist employer in a way he cannot shift it. During the war some railroads paid exorbitant dividends on watered stock in spite of government operation. Some coal companies paid dividends running into the hundreds, 700% or more. Big capital makes its open boast of great gains. During this same period of gain for capital, strikes were more numerous than ever before. Some few of these strikes won but ultimately for the laboring people they all lost. Until working people come to realize that the capitalist army is well united, splendidly organized, thoroughly officered and strongly entrenched and that the only hope of success against this army is a force more united, better organized and officered, failure is certain to be their lot. The capitalist class understands this fact very well. This is the reason they fight the idea of the one big union so desperately.

"Laboring people of the world unite".

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